Fires in the Mirror Modified Worksheet

Based on your viewing of the entire youtube version of Fires in the Mirror which was created from the play for presentation on television, answer the following questions:

1. Describe the stasis in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

This play happens in Crown Heights. It is about the response of an entire society after a Jewish rabbi’s car ran over a young black boy and the murder of a Jewish student in retaliation.

2. What is the intrusion?

The intrusion is when the rabbi runs over Gavin.

3. What is the unique factor?

The tension between the Jews and the Blacks.

4. What is the dramatic question that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will the tension between the two groups cause further disturbances in the society? Who will be favored in this incident?

5. In your opinion what is the most theatrical segment of the video version of the play and explain why do you think it is so powerful?

The parts where Gavin’s father talks and Yankel’s brother talks were the most theatrical moments of the play. It was evident in their talks that they are hurt very badly of the loss of their loved ones.

6. List some of the themes of the play.

* Justice
* Violence
* Discrimination
* Racism

7. Television allows the actress to create mini sets, a variety of lighting effects, and detailed costume pieces for the presentation of her many characters, not to mention graphic footage of the actual events in Crown Heights. This is frankly not possible to accomplish on the stage which requires that the action move rapidly between one scene and the other leaving little if any time for a change of dress, settings, lights, and props. Describe some of the varieties of these production details that struck you as particularly effective.

* Costume
* Hair style
* Make up
* Gestures and movements
* Background music
* The setting/ environment